The TAHRIK-i-JADID

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WAL 1390 A.H.
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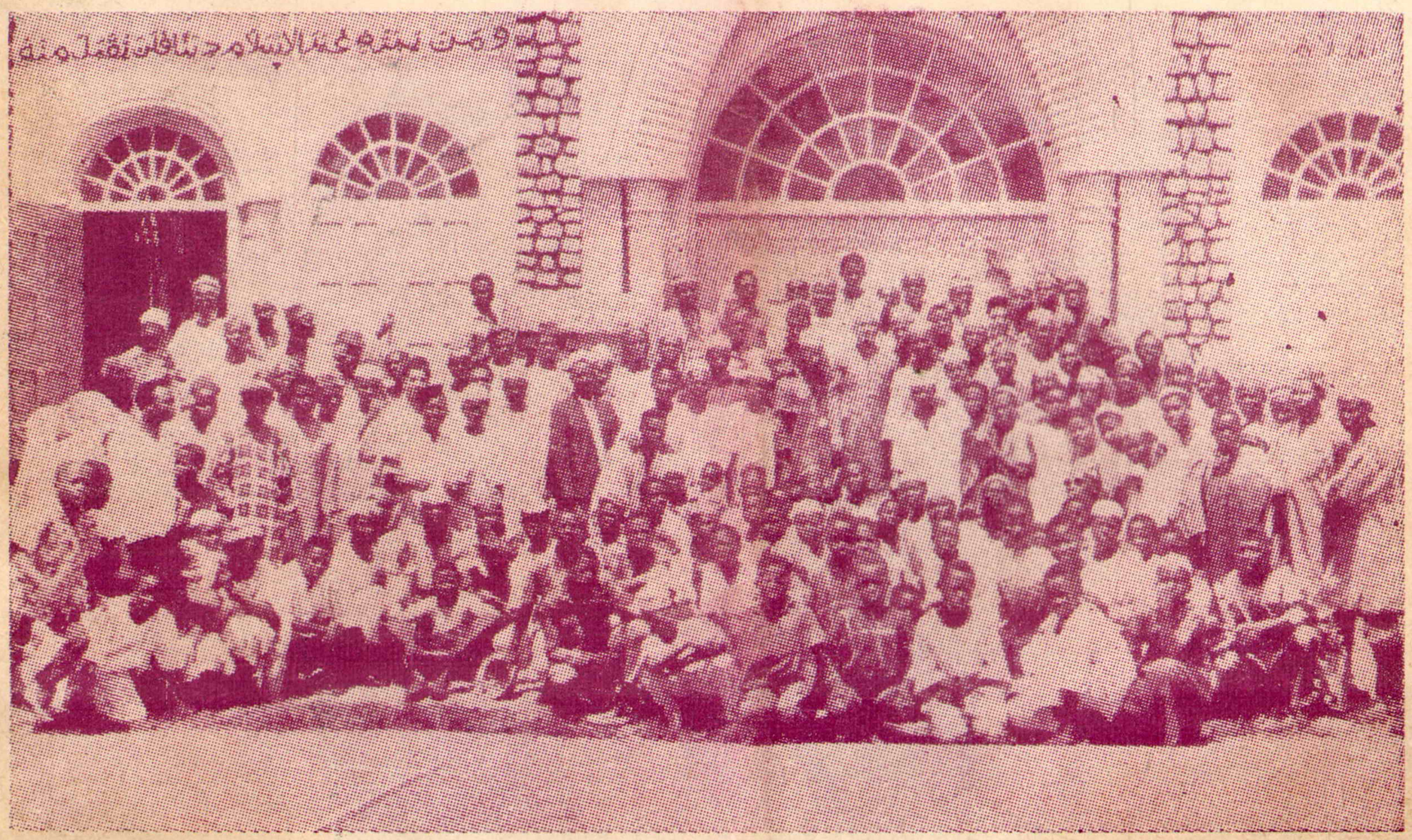
EMBER 1970 A.D.

Editor :
Naseem Saif

Ahmadiyya Jama'at, Kano (Nigeria) with Maulvi M.B. Shad after Friday Prayer



احمدیہ جماعت کانو - نائیجیریا
جمعہ کی نماز کے بعد احباب جماعت نے مکرم مولوی محمد بشیر صاحب شاد
کے ساتھ تصویر لی

رقم کتنی بھی ہو . . .

۵ روپے یا ۵۰۰ روپے، ہم آپ کے اکاؤنٹ کی قدر کرتے ہیں۔
صرف چند روپوں سے آپ سیونگز اکاؤنٹ UBL میں کھلوا سکتے ہیں۔
خدمت میں نیازمندی اور کام میں ہنرمندی ہمارے نشانِ امتیاز ہیں
اور بینکاری کو آپ کے لئے زیادہ سے زیادہ مفید بنانا ہمارا شعار ہے۔

پاکستان میں ۵۰۰ سے زائد شاخیں۔ بیرونی شاخیں:۔ لندن، برمنگھم، شیفیلڈ، بریڈفورڈ، بحرین، العین، ابوظہبی اور دوبئی
لبنان اور سوئٹزرلینڈ میں ذیلی ادارے ۔ کراچی، ڈھاکہ اور راولپنڈی میں کمپیوٹر بیورو ۔ لاہور اور چٹاگانگ میں تجارتیات کے مخصوص مراکز۔
دی یونین بینک لمیٹڈ ۔ یونائیٹڈ بینک کا ایک ذیلی ادارہ۔

یونائیٹڈ بینک لمیٹڈ

UBL

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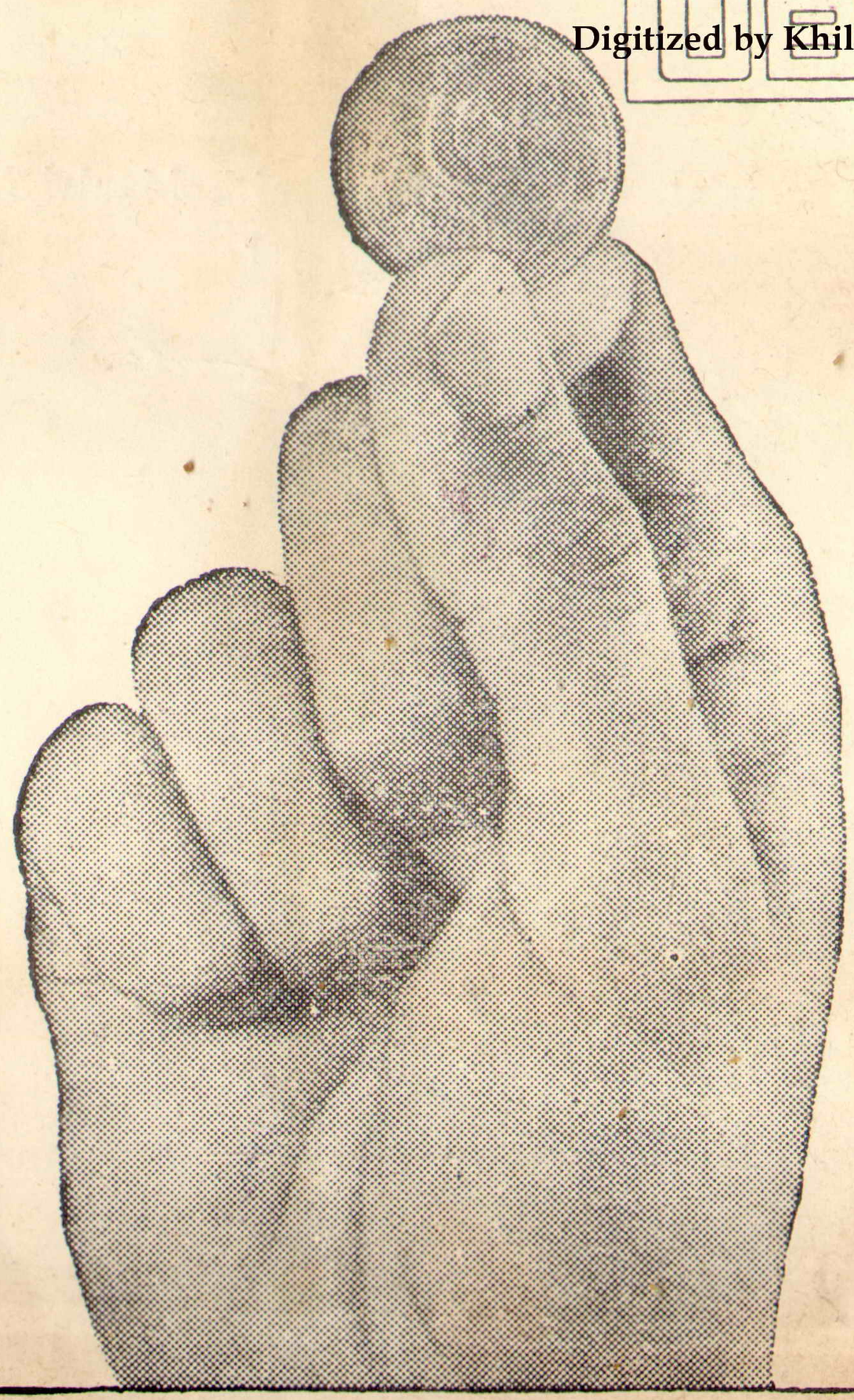

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

THE

TAHRIK-I-JADID

MONTHLY

Vol. VI DECEMBER 1970 No. 12

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Malfoozat

LOVE YOUR GOD

You should not be over anxious to be the recipients of revelations and visions. If you don't have them in the whole of your life, you should not feel worried. If you are sure that you are like a true lover—as he (the true lover) remains hungry when he is separated from his beloved, he has no sense of food or drink, nor has he any thoughts for his body—if you love God like that—if your person never intervenes between yourself and your God then even if you die, you are a lucky person. What we should be concerned with is personal love; we have nothing to do with visions and revelations.

Look at a drunkard. He takes one cup of wine after another and he enjoys it. You should also take cup after cup of His personal love. Just as the drunkard is a hard drinker, you also should never be satisfied till you realise that your love has reached the stage of a lover who is deeply in love and you yourself can be called a lover; You should not step back in the path of love; you should rather continue marching forward and do not remove the cup (of love) from your lips. You should always be anxious to meet Him; if you have not reached that stage, your love is of no value at all. Your love for God should be such that no other love could be compared with it.

(Malfoozat Volume V, page 172)

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RABWAH DIARY

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KHUTBA

On Friday the 30th of Akha (October) Hazrat Khalifatul Masih in his Sermon commented on the verses :

اجیب دعوة الداع اذادعان فلیستجیبوالی

ولیومنوابی لعلھم یرشدون (البقرہ)

قل ما یعبؤبکم ربی لولادعاؤ کم(الفرقان)

and told the audience (and through them to the whole Jama'at) that as a result of the acceptance of the prayers, one is granted the power to do good deeds and also one gains more of God realisation. He further remarked that since everything is based on the grace of God and the grace of God is linked with the prayers, it is not understandable why one should ignore or be negligent of the prayers. One should humble oneself and be prayerful.

Just as, he said, your God neither sleeps nor does he doze, you also should according to your capacities be watchful and alert and remain bowed down before God.

You must realise that you stand in need of His Help at all the times, he said.

Reception for Huzur

A Reception was held by the Central Organisations of the Jama'at at Rabwah on 29 October, 1970 in honour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III on his return from a successful tour of West Africa. In reply to the Addresses that were presented to him, Huzur said that there were two things conspicuously mentioned in the Addresses :

(1) As servants of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, our hearts are filled with praises for God because of His great bounties and graces that He has showered on us in sending us—who are no more than particles of sand to the whole world with the Manifestation of His Beauty and Glory. It is all because of his grace and we are greatly grateful to Him and we are full of His praises.

(2) The second thing that is very much conspicuous in the Addresses is that we should have been filled with joy because of His extraordinary Bounties vouchsafed to us—and we are really filled with joy—so much so that we cannot find words to express our happiness.

Huzur further remarked that the Ahmadis in Africa were also filled with joy at being the recipients of the grace and mercy of God, the Almighty. It was due to this uncontrollable joy that they expressed their appreciation in various beautiful ways.

On my return, Huzur said, I found the same kind of joy and happiness on the faces of the members of my dear Community as I had seen there. The fact is that all the Ahmadis, here as well as there, are very happy and it is but natural. While there in West Africa we were not happy because we had done something great, but because we could realise that God was Himself holding our finger and leading us to wherever He liked and made us useful for His religion. We could never imagine that we were capable of anything at all.

Huzur spoke of the world wide campaign for the dominance of Islam over all other religions and said that before the advent of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, the Mujaddids were raised for particular areas and therefore their sphere of action for reformation of the people was limited. For example, Sayyed Ahmad

Shaheed and Uthman Dan Fodio—two of them were Mujjaddid at the same time, one in India and the other in Nigeria. No doubt their efforts did produce very valuable results but it cannot be gainsaid that their circle was comparatively small and limited. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, had so merged himself in the person of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, through obedience and loyalty and God in this Age willed to bring all the nations to the fold of Islam therefore He raised the Promised Messiah for the whole world. That is why a world wide campaign for the dominance of Islam has been started through him. The foundation of this great task has been laid. The edifice is being erected and righteously inclined souls are turning towards Islam. In West Africa there are now very loyal and sincere Jama'ats through whose efforts—and the grace of God—there are visible signs of the onward march of Islam. In fact the day of the dominance of Islam has dawned. We—and our African brothers—have witnessed the dawn of the day. The sun is there on the horizon and when it comes to the meridian, it will shine on the whole world and it will enlighten not only Africa but every corner of the world.

Ijtima Ansarullah

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The 15th Ijtima of Majlis-i-Ansarullah was held on 23 - 25 of Akha (October). The Ijtima has always infused a new spirit of service and sacrifice in the Ansars and has enabled them to better their lives in the days that follow it. They assemble at the Headquarters to pray collectively for the spread of Islam and the upliftment of the Muslims. They listen to the life-giving addresses of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih and also speeches from various learned members of the Jamaat. The very fact that they stay together for at least three days in a spirit of brotherliness and meet one another with great love and affection, gives them a great confidence in the united front that the Jamaat is presenting against the untruth and falsehood that abounds in the world.

The attendance this year was very encouraging and in keeping with the traditions of the Majlis-i-Ansarullah, the number of the Branches represented at the Ijtima was more than the last year; they were 465 while last year the Branches represented were 341. The individual repesentatives were 925, the members were 1580 while the visitors were 2060. Although the number has been increasing every year, the jump this time is much more than any previous year.

In his inaugural address Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, may God be always his helper, dilated on the theme that in order to deserve fulfilment of the promises given by God, it is of vital importance that the people must be possessed of strong faith pervading all the aspects of their lives. This kind of faith demands that it should be free from worldly adultrations and also it should have no iota of hypocricy nor should it have any semblance of cowardice and as for obedience it must be at its peak.

Huzur said that those who are blessed with these four qualities of faith, it is they who are vouchsafed steadfastness on the path of truth. They are pure and clean, internally as well as extrenally which in other words means that their souls are polished like a mirror.

Huzur drew the attention of the Jama'at to the fact that the task for which the Ahmadiyya Jamaat has been raised in this Age is not limited only to one generation. Efforts for its achieve-

ment have to continue from generation to generation, he said. Our basic duty is that we should prepare our next generation to fulfil the responsibilities that are going to be laid on their shoulders. And for this all of us must possess the qualities that a Murabbi is expected to have. We should be righteous and God-fearing, we should be humble and we should have a living relation with our most generous sustainer—God. Our relation with God should not be based on mere intellectual basis, rather we should witness His power and controlling authority with our own eyes. Then and then alone can we bring up our next generation in the right way.

Huzur remarked that the promises that God has vouchsafed to us through the Promised Messiah, are in no way new promises. They are the same that have been mentioned in the Holy Quran. But we must never forget that the condition that has been attached with the fulfilment of these promises is that the faith must be strong and all pervading, leaving, no aspect of life devoid of it.

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It is the promises that God has made in the Holy Quran that the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, has repeated in a way that makes understanding easy.

In the end he said, "We have nothing to do with worldly honours and powers. The only aim of our life is that we should see the honour of the Holy Prophet, peaee and blessings of God be upon him, established in the world through the living signs of God".

He prayed to God that He may grant all of us His succour and shower His blessings on everybody.

In his closing Address he drew the attention of the Jama'at to the fact that steadfastness in the path of truth—which could also be expressed as internal and external cleanliness—should be achieved by every member of the Jama'at and in fact every coming generation of the Jama'at should possess this quality. He further remarked that it was the internal and external purity that made a man deserving of the grace and bounty of God. One of these bounties of God is that through perfect obedience to the Holy Prophet, one is able to receive revelation from God and the other is heavenly signs that are made to appear through the true believers.

Dilating on these two bounties of God. Huzur said that it was through the obedience and loyalty to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, that a large number of Muslims have been vouchsafed revelations from God. And in fact in order to perpetuate these two blessings in the Umma, God has linked them with the institution of Khilafat. The promise is mentioned in the Chapter entitled An-Noor and also in Hamim As-Sijda.

Huzur also explained at some length the relationship between the Khilafat and Mujaddidiyyat. He said Mujaddid is not a Khalifa; he represents the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, only in one or the other aspect of religion. Khalifa is also a Mujaddid and he represents the Holy Prophet, in all the aspects of the religious and spiritual life. He, through the blessings received from the Holy Prophet, fulfills all the needs of the religion.

He then exhorted the Jama'at, that the responsibility of spreading Islam in all the parts of the world being theirs, their faith must be very strong and all pervading. The members of the Ansarullah should try more than others to absorb the two graces of God (mentioned in the beginning). They should also see to it that their next generations also follow their footsteps. He said the question is not whether the blessings of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God

be upon him, are still at work or not, the real question is whether we are the recipients of these blessings or not. All of us should always try all we can to be so obedient and loyal to the Holy Prophet that we should be considered as deserving the blessings of God.

Before closing he once again drew the attention of the Ansars to the fact that it was their duty to bring up tneir children in such a way that they could satisfactorily carry out the responsibilities that are going to be placed on their shoulders.

Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, President of the Majlis Ansar ullah, in his Address to the Ijtima, on the third day, told the audience that they could hope for the succour of God only when they had made the same kind of sacrifices, as were made by the companions of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him. "It is only this kind of sacrifices" he further said, "that can open the doors for the collective progress of the Jama'at and bring the dominating supremacy of Islam nearer."

His Address was mostly based on the 1st seven verses of Sura Al-Qasas. He said, "It is an unchangeable law of God that the Divine Communities of the Prophets are weak in the beginning. It is from this state of theirs that God takes them out and through His help they gain power and dominance. But this happens only when the members of the Jama'at have put in their utmost efforts and have sacrificed all they possess.

"Turning to the early history of Islam, he said, "Which human eye could ever visualise the progress that the weak companions of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, made within the span of a few years. The supremacy they gained over other people was not through the swords or the guns. It was the wise words of God and enlightened knowledge in the shape of the Holy Quran that gained victories for them. Its penetrating influence went deep down in the hearts and they were won over for Islam.

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"But then at a later stage Islam started slipping down from the high cliff of success and dominance and God had to raise the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, to see it revived. The Promised Messiah did his work the whole of his life and now it is the duty of his Jama'at to carry on the work started by him. It is the duty of the Jama'at that the wise words of God and the illuminating knowledge that they contain should be carried far and wide and the best glory of Islam be regained.

"This is the last battle between the unbelief and belief and we have to fight it out with the Holy Quran in our hands. The result of our victory will be that the hearts of the people will be won over to Islam and the rule of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, will be established in all the parts of the world. This victory has been destined and it must come to pass. But we must not forget that the help of God comes only when human effort has reached it peak. We have the lives of the Holy Prophet and his companions before us to serve as an example for us. The history bears testimony to the fact that they sacrificed all they had. They even surrendered their lives."

Sahibzada Sahib then quoted some moving instances of the sacrifices made by the Holy Prophet and his companions. "We can now see things happening in favour of Islam for its revival", he said, "and the beautiful features of the face of Islam are becoming more and more clear and distinct. We should now raise our own standard of sacrifice to such a height where, as God has promised, we will

become deserving of the victory mentioned in the verse :

اذا جاء نصر الله و الفتح

When the victory is achieved we will be able to realise that that is the day of our real Id ; on that day the glory and grandeur of the Majesty of God and the rule of the Holy Prophet will have established in the whole world.

Farewell for the Principal

Professor Qazi Mohammad Aslam, M.A. (Cantab), Principal T. I. College Rabwah has retired with the permission of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III.

He came to the College in February 1966 and thus has put in meritorious service for almost five years. During his tenure the College has made appreciable progress ; it has started M.Sc., physics classes, which is a great step forward and for which Qazi Sahib deserves the admiration of the whole Jama'at.

In order to bid him farwell, the College held a function in the form of a dinner on the 31st of October. Professor Basharatur Rahman, a senior professor (who has always acted as Principal in the absence of Qazi Sahib) read out the Address in which Qazi Sahib was duly praised for his meritorious services.

Dr. Nasir Ahmad Parwazi, Professor of Urdu recited a poem composed in honour of the Guest of Honour

In reply to the Address, Qazi Sahib remarked that it was sheerly due to the grace of God that one could perform any real act of service, and for that we should always pray to God that He may enable us to prove ourselves useful. Such prayers always attract the blessings of God.

T. I. College, he said, is a unique institution, very different from all other educational centres. It has great and good traditions and these traditions must be maintained at all costs.

The function was brought to a close with a silent prayer led by Qazi Sahib.

It will be of interest to note that Qazi Sahib is busy in writing a book on Philosophy-

Arrival

Maulvi Sultan Ahmad Shahid arrived back from Nigeria on the 31st of October. He had served the Ahmadiyya Mission there for a year and a half.

He was received at the railway station, Rabwah by a large number of friends.

Before leaving for Nigeria he had worked on the Staff of the Tahrik-i-Jadid monthly, after passing out from the Jamia Ahmadiyya.

Sweden Mission

Qureshi Kamal Yusuf has taken charge of the Ahmadiyya Mission, Sweden.

His postal (and residential) address is given below :

Kamal Yusuf,
Ahmadiyya Muslim Missionary,
Allmanna Vagen 21,
41460 Goteborg,
SWEDEN.

INTERESTED

IN

Comparative Religions ?

Read :

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THE REVIEW OF RELICIONS

Address

THE REVIEW OF RELIGIONS

P. O. Rabwah, W. Pak.

NOTES & COMMENTS

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Our Supreme God

There are some people who, says Hazrat Muslih Mauood, may God be pleased with him, do not like their lives to be governed by God. If they find something, which they can't understand even though it may be a command of God, they assert openly that they would not abide by it, for the simple reason that they cannot comprehend it.

Hazrat Muslih Mauood further says, "This is a short-coming mostly to be found in the Westernised young people. A large number of them has fallen a prey to it. Instead of following the commands of God and giving them supreme importance, they would like to rule over God, and they think that He is not in a position to issue any command which they cannot understand or which they think is not in their interest.

Citing an example Hazrat Muslih Mauood says, "In 1947 or 1948 I had gone to Peshawar where a certain non member of the Jamaat had invited me to dinner. Some of the Army Officers were also there. While talking to them I mentioned one of the verses of the Holy Quran. One of the Army Officers took exception to it and remarked that what the verse said was not correct. I, at once, said to him, that you will have first to decide whether this is a verse of the Holy Quran or not. Then you have also to take a decision on whether the Holy Quran is the word of God or not. And then you should find out whether the verse does mean what I have said, or not. The Army Officer replied that he knew that this is a verse of the Holy Quran and also he did believe that the Holy Quran is the word of God and that you have correctly interpreted it ; I, then, said to him that in that case the question was not whether the meaning of the verse was correct or not but whether God knows more or you know more. At it, the Army Officer kept silent for a while ; his face flushed red. Since he was honest and outright he spoke out his mind and said "It seems as if I know more".

All those present laughed at him and he felt somewhat ashamed at the situation that had been created by his answer.

(There is a great lesson in it for our Westernised young people who tend to think that their understanding is the criterion for the right and the wrong. Let God govern our lives and let us realise that He reigns supreme and it is through His guidance that we can achieve ultimate success in this life as well in the life to come).

Supreme test for Christianity

The World Christian Digest for June 1970 carries an article "The Future Calls Twice—Christianity faces the supreme test of its history" by Alan Walker.

Christianity is indeed passing through a test, perhaps the hardest of its life. Christians throughout the world are conscious of this fact. The Catholic Herald of Nigeria (May 27, 1955) also said editorially : "The Church is facing bravely the greatest crisis of its history, fighting for its very existence and the souls of men".

Mr. Alan Walker in his article mentioned above says :

"The Christian faith faces a time of testing. Unless with greater

power, the ideas of Jesus reach the minds of millions. the gospel will, for masses of people even in so-called Christian lands, be unknown. Dr. M. C. Cluban warns of the peril when he says : "Jesus is likely to become another Zarathustra, an interesting antique figure, faintly remembered".

But where are the ideas of Jesus to be found ? Are they in the New Testament which has passed through so many stages of interpolation. Do we have the words of Jesus preserved anywhere in the world that we may get at his ideas ? Of course, no where. Even the Christian leaders themselves do not seem to be gaining any credit to the New Testament. And when they put it to the touch stone, and find it wanting their expression of truth is considered to be betrayal. As Alan Walker says :

> "There is a great betrayal occuring in the minds of some Christian leaders today. It is the betrayal that sees no importance in making disciples".

But disciples of who? Do you mean of Jesus ? Jesus, whose teachings are under hammer—teachings as contained in the New Testament. Christianiy has declined. It had do. Mr. Walker says :

> "The real cause of the decline of Christianity in the old areas of what was once called Christendom is the failure of the Church to "Make disciples".
>
> "The Church has been living on its past. It has failed to notice the ageing nature of its congregations. It has neither sought, nor gained conversion. Now, with the invitable toll of the years, consquencies became obvious.
>
> "Recently I shared in a commission of enquiry on Methodism in the inner belts of Sydney. The picture was tragic. Churches once strong have become derelict, amid larger populations than ever. Now, only a few aged worshippers remain. The next step will be to realise on the one asset that remains : Sell the properties to a gas station".
>
> "Why the collapse ? Churches, Christians, has failed to make disciples" ...There is no future for the Christian Church unless it recovers the secret of how to makes disciples".

Mr. Walker is very much worried over the decline of Christianity. But none can help him. This is the destiny of God that the Cross should now break and the Crescent of Islam should draw the attention of the people the world over.

HADITH

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Hazrat Abu Huraira, may God be pleased with him, reports that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, said, "It is your bounden duty to listen to and obey your Imam (the Spiritual Leader) whether you are passing through straitened circumstances or you are well off, whether you are in a happy mood or you are not happy, and whether you feel your rights have been snatched or you have been given a preferential treatment.

★ ● ★

Hazrat Abu Darda, may God be pleased with him, reports that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of God be upon him, said, "Hazrat Daud, peace be on him, used to pray like this : O my Allah, I ask you for your love and for the love of those who love you, and the deed that may carry me to your love. O my Allah, make your love most beloved to me—more beloved than myself. my family and the cold water."

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OUR CLOSE FRIENDS

An address of welcome by Honourable Commissioner for Local Government Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule to H. E. Dr. S. M. Koreshi High Commissioner of Pakistan at a reception held in his honour by Dr. Ziauddin i/c Ahmadiyya Clinic, kano on Friday the 19th of September, 1969.

May I, Your Excellency, on behalf of Kano State welcome you to this historic city of Kano, a city which to you, Sir, is not entirely new, for it has so many things in common with most of your cities if not all of them in Pakistan in religion, character, traditions, culture and even in social and political problems. For you, coming to Kano State is like coming home from home.

Indeed Sir, we are fortunate to have among the foreign diplomats in our country at a time like this, somebody of your calibre and experience. Judging from your past performances we are sure that you possess a world of experience in solving intricate and most difficult political problems on international levels. In the field of international economic co-operation yours is an equally remarkable achievement. It is no wonder therefore that our country, considering the important and most friendly relations between your country and ours, has found you a most worthy and most suitable successor to your predecessor. We do hope that you will use all these fine qualities you have acquired over the years not only in further strengthening our already strong relations but also in helping us morally, politically and otherwise both here and elsewhere to overcome our present temporary difficulties.

Your Excellency, the Pakistani Community which you represent has, ever before the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, made their impact on the country particularly in the field of education and medicine. The Ahmadiyya Mission in Nigeria has for several years been working relentlessly towards the spread and upliftment of Islam in conjunction with other Muslim Organisations in the country. I believe I am right in saying that this Mission was the first organised Islamic Mission in Nigeria and, I think I am not exaggerating if I may say that it was the first in the whole world. In recent years the activities of the Mission have increased most considerably thereby making their influence much greater. We are particularly impressed by the many books, pamphlets and puplications which are printed by the Mission's Press. "The Truth"is one of the only two Muslim Newspapers in the country and had been the only one for a very long time. The effort of the Mission in translating many religious books into English and some of the Nigerian languages, and publishing them, thereby bringing many Muslims out of darkness into light is most commendable. It is most encouraging to see the practical fulfilment of the Islamic injunction as regards the search for knowledge by the Mission. The very many schools they have established are a demonstration of the true teachings of Islam. Now they have intensified their work in other social sectors by establishing hopsitals, clinics and dispensaries. This is Islam indeed. This is Islam in practice. It is Islam in fact ! Your Excellency, your Community, through this Mission, has certainly rendered and is rendering a lot of service to humanity—and "ser-

vice to humanity is the best service that one can render to Allah." May He in His infinite mercy reward them abundantly.

Your Excellency, I said earlier your country and mine have got many things in common : both were under the tutelage of a certain colonial power ; both achieved their independence in this decade ; both are developing countries struggling to raise the standards of living of their respective peoples. They are of course doing their utmost to gain some economic independence which may relieve them from the shackles of neo-colonialism. But Both cannot do without some help from somewhere—help in technical know-how and in money. But let us not deceive ourselves : if we want to achieve this we must be prepared to do the maximum we can ourselves, we must prove to the world that we are capable of doing things ourselves, and this means making the greatest sacrifices ourselves. No doubt even the donor countries would be unwilling to give us any genuine help if they realise that we are not serious. The great saint and philosopher of your part of the world, Socrate, once said, "If you want anything done well, do it yourself."

It is in the interest of world peace that the world powers help us, the developing countries in whatever way possible so that we may be strong and stable both politically and economically. It is only in this way that we can use our influence as a third indispensable force to bring about peace and understanding in the world. We the members of the third force must therefore stand clear of the conflict of the world powers ; we must refuse to get ourselves involved in their politics which does not concern or interest us ; we must not inherit the prejudices of any one against anyone. I believe if we do this, Africa with the might of her consort Asia will be the stabilising force that can prevent the catastrophe this world is heading for.

It is in this wise that I am appealing to all peoples of good will to help bring the Nigerian crisis to a speedy end. We are determined to keep our territorial integrity. We will do this either by militry force or through peaceful negotiation. No country in the history of the whole world has been known to show sympathy, understanding and love to its enemies as the Federal Military Government is doing in the present war. We do this because we are fighting to keep the country ONE which implies that sooner or later we shall live together as brothers and sisters. Let those intruders therefore stop prolonging the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, let the "do-gooders" leave us alone in the interest of humanitarianism. If only they would hands off, the crisis would come to an end within a couple of weeks ; I am sure of this.

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Before I conclude, Your Excellency, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you and your colleagues on the part you have played in condemning the un-Godly burning of the Masjidil Aqsa. Speaking as a Muslim and as a r e s p o n s i b l e citizen of the world, I believe that so long as we do not have respect for one another's belief, as long as some people would continue to flout world opinion with impunity there would be no peace in this world. We share your concern and indignation, We call upon all well meaning peoples of the world to condemn without any reservation this act which is capable of bringing about another world conflict. We are anxiously waiting to see what the World Body will do to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

(*Thank God, the rebellion has now been subdued Editor*).

REFERENCE CORNER

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The Holy Quran

And whoso obeys Allah and this Messenger of His shall be among those on whom Allah has bestowed His blessings, namely, the Prophets, the Truthful, the Martyrs, and the Righteous. And excellent companions are these. 4 : 70

And remember when Moses said to his people, 'O my people, call to mind Allah's favour upon you when He appointed Prophets among you and made you kings, and gave you what He gave not to any other among the peoples. 5 : 21.

And when there comes to them a Sign, they say 'We will not believe until we are given the like of that which Allah's Messengers have been given.' Allah knows best where to place His Message. Surely, humiliation before Allah and a severe punishment shall smite the offenders because of their plotting. 6 : 125

O children of Adam ! if Messengers come to you from among yourselves, rehearsing My Signs unto you, then whoso shall fear God and do good deeds, on them shall come no fear nor shall they grieve. 7 : 36

Surely the true religion with Allah is Islam (complete submission). 3 : 20

And whoso seeks a religion other than Islam, it shall not be accepted from him, and in the life to come he shall be among the losers. 3 : 86

.....This day have I perfected your religion for you and have chosen for you Islam as religion.....5 : 4

So whomsoever Allah wishes to guide, He expands his bosom for the acceptance of Islam.....6 : 126

They think they have done thee a favour by their embracing Islam. Say, Deem not your embracing Islam a favour unto me. On the contrary, Allah has bestowed a favour upon you in that He has guided you to the true Faith if you are truthful. 49 : 18

Pronouncements of the Promised Messiah

Talking while Azan is being called.

The Al-Hakam, May 1902, reports that once it so happened that when the Azan for Asr Prayer was being called, Nawab Sahib and Masheer-Aa'la (the Chief Adviser) observed silence. The Promised Messiah said : "It is not forbidden to talk when Azan is being called. If you wish to ask something else, you may do so with pleasure. For, some times it so happens that people have something in their mind to ask but for one reason or the other they don't ask. The result of it more often than not is bad. Whatever the doubts, they must be expressed without delay and hesitation. For they are like bad diet, which if not thrown out, may cause indigestion".

Likewise on the 17th of April, 1902, somebody was reading an article of his in connection with the bubonic plague, to the Promised Messiah. While he was reading, somebody started calling the Azan and thereupon he became silent. The Promised Messiah told him to continue reading his article.

Azan in the ear of the baby.

On being asked about the significance of the Azan called in the ear of a new-born baby, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, said : The words which are uttered in the ears of the baby at that time have a great effect on his morals. It is, therefore, a very good practice.

(The Badr, 28-3-1907)

He came to Reform

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God says in the Holy Quran "We said: Go forth, all of you, from here. And if there comes to you guidance from Me, then whoso shall follow My guidance, on them shall come no fear, nor shall they grieve."

And the Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, had prophesied the coming of a Mahdi whom he also called Easa Nabiullah. The prophecy is contained in many books of Hadith and quite a number of details are also given.

This promised Mahdi with true guidance from God appeared in this Age in the person of Hazrat Ahmad, the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. In one of his books he says: 'I have been sent into the world to reform mankind by removing moral, doctrinal and spiritual defects."

And he says: "The reason why I find such a great sympathy in my heart for the people is that I have found out a mine of Gold and diamonds and there I have come across such a bright and costly diamond that were I to share this diamond with all the human beings every one of them would become richer than the person who today owns the greatest amount of gold and silver. And what is that diamond? It is the true God. And how can we get Him? We can do so by having an understanding of Him, by believing in Him and by having a pure and sincere love for Him. That is how we can get blessings from Him. How cruel it would be, if after finding such a great wealth I were to keep human beings deprived of it. How can it be that I should let the people die of hunger while I live a luxurious life. It simply is not possible. I cannot see them deprived of Him. I am anxious to see their homes filled with the heavenly wealth and I should like them to get as many diamonds of certainty as they possibly can."

He also says: "I have been given to understand that the prophet who gives the most perfect teaching which is full of purity and wisdom, who gives the noblest example for the people to follow is the Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him. And the pure revelation of God has informed me that I am the Promised Messiah and Mahdi and that I have been sent as a judge for the internal and external differences. These names 'Messiah' and 'Mahdi' have been given to me by Holy Prophet and God has also called me by these names, in His revelation that has come to me I do not only claim that the pure revelation of God gives me the news of the Unseen and miracles take place at my hands, I even go farther than that and claim that whoever will follow me with a pure and sincere heart and with a true love for Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, will also receive blessings from God. But you must remember that this door is totally closed for the opponents. And if they think that this door is not closed, then let them come forward and show heavenly signs. But they will never be able to do that.

"This, as a matter of fact, is a living proof of the truth of Islam and also of the truth of my claim."

Some people reject the claim of Hazrat Ahmad because they think that Jesus Christ is still in the skies and it is he who is to descend in the time of Mahdi to join hands with him and help Islam. The fact is that Jesus Christ is not in the skies. He

(*Continued on page 14*)

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'Cautious' note from meeting

By Roberta Garrett

Forty Hindus, Budhists, Christians and Muslims from 17 countries ended a consultation last week in Lebanon on a note of "cautious optimism" about future relations.

Called a Consultation on Dialogue between Men of Living Faiths, the meeting was described by its sponsor, the World Council of Churches, as a "modest, experimental begining."

It was the first meeting to be held at the w rld level between representatives of the four religions.

Those who took part hope that the consultation can be a means to future dialogue on a wider scale based on mutual respect for each other's beliefs. It can also increase existing co-operation in social activity, especially in countries where different faiths are living side by side.

Host for the conference was the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Mount Lebanon, and participants included a number of Roman Catholics, including Father Vincent Miano, of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers.

Keynote

The keynote of the consultation was the understanding that a full and loyal commitment to one's own faith did not stand in the way of conversation.

Discussions revealed many promising glimpses of agreement but also brought out clear disagreements in under-standing the world and man's place in it.

Participants were able to share in worship, prayer and meditation conducted by members of the different faiths.

This consultation was concerned with Christians in dialogue with men of three major faiths in Asia, but it was clear the next stage should involve people of other faiths from different continents, including members of the Jewish faith and adherents of many African religions.

Tahriki Jadid :

It is indeed a good idea that followers of various faiths should sit together and talk about their faiths and listen about those of others.

But it must not lead to indifference to one's own faith. That will prove detrimental for all and sundry.

Dialogue between the followers of different religions is of utmost importance. It must be cordial and frank. People must try to understand the others' view point and must appreciate the good that is there in the religions not their own.

The Holy Quran has laid stress on the fact that we should not only appreciate good wherever it is, we should go a step forward and co-operate in all that is common and that goes to the betterment of human beings—their souls and bodies, both.

Christians can't outdo Muslims

A letter from Maulvi B.A. Bashir to the Ghanaian Times, Ghana.

I wish to comment on the statement published in the "Ghanaian Times" on August 17, 1970 of Dr. David Barrat. visiting Professor at Columbia University in the United States. "That within ten years there would be as many Christians as Muslims in Africa" and that "in 20 years. Christians would out-number Muslims."

I wish the doctor success but this type of proclamation we have heard and enjoyed before.

A similar statement was given by one of the earliest over-enthusiast American John Henry Barrows, D.D. when he said :

"Even the solitudes of Arabia shall be pierced and Christ, in the person of his disciples shall enter the Kaaba of Mecca and the whole truth shall at last be there spoken."

This he boasted at a time when Muslim countries were subjugated by Christian Europe yet they could not succeed in their designs.

How then could they succeed when Muslim countries are independent?.

It is the beauty and cxcellences of the religion that wins over and not empty declarations.

Tahrik-i-Jadid;

A good answer indeed. What efforts the Christians have already spared that now they will put in and the tables will be turned. The wind is now blowing in favor of Islam and none can check the onward march of this great and noble religion. The writing on the wall can now be easily read—even the Hand of God can be seen. Let the Christians note that, in Europe they have been able to sell their Churches, in Africa no body will buy them ; there will be no need to buy them. The people will become Muslims and will bring their Churches to Islam to make them mosques. The time is fast approaching. The recent tour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III has brought it nearer.

(*Continued from page 12*)

died at the age of 120 years and lies buried in Kashmir.

The prophecy of the Holy Prophet in respect of the advent of a Mahdi who was also to be the Promised Messiah has been fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Ahmad, peace be on him. And blessed are those who believe in the fulfilment of this prophecy and join his fold. (N.S.)

Prayers save you from the 'Ghost'

by Eben Quarcoo

A Man walked into the Editorial office of the 'Graphic' yesterday and declared that the crosses which people had marked on their walls, doors, and windows in Accra and other parts of the country to protect them against a supposed "terror" ghost would not save them.

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The man, Mr. Yusuf Osei, 36, of Tema who claimed to be a Pastor of the Ahmadiyya Movement, said he firmly believed in the story of the ghost.

He said the only thing that could protect people from the "ghost" which he described as an evil spirit was prayer.

Pastor Osei has prescribed a special prayer which all should recite before going to bed.

The Prayer reads:

"I betake myself for refuge to Allah against the accursed devil. IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE GRACIOUS, THE MERCIFUL.

"Evening has come upon us and it is evening all over the country at Allah's command.

He has power over all things. My Lord, I ask of Thee the good of this night, and the good that is to follow it. And I seek shelter with Thee against what-ever is harmful in this night and against the harm which is after it. O my Lord, I scek refuge with Thee against lethargy, agaist the evil of pride and disbelief. O my Lord I seek Thy shelter from the punishment of Fire, and from the punishment of the Grave. Amen"

The Church

A Multi Million Dollar Business

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By Biodun Famojuro

Running a Church is now a paying concern. Once it used to be—or at least it was expected to be—a spiritual and humanitarian job. A Missionary was considered to be a man with meagre means who could hardly make the two ends meet.

Recenly a Sunday paper (Daily Sketch) in Nigeria conducted a survey of the Churches in Lagos and Ibadan. The survey revealed that the Church is a multi-million business. It headed the report as "The Church a multi million Dollar business" and the report ran thus :

OVER £7 million is believed to be realised locally by the various church oragnisations in Nigeria every year.

Less than half of this amount is reliably known to be spent on the development of the various churches and other financial commitments.

Investigations conductdd in Lagos and Ibadan during the week revealed that the balance either misappropriated or squandered on religious ventures.

It was also discovered that no solid financial budgets were prepared annually nor returns of monies spent remitted but estimates soar yearly.

'Bare-Faced Fraud'

The manners by which revenues were handled in many churches visited have to do with "bare-faced fraud" and these are being done without necessary check.

Most small-scale churches in Ibadan. Mushin, Ikeja, Lagos Island and Mainland are bad in terms of structural, designs and material but cash donations continue to flow in.

There are instances at Mushin where church services are conducted in open because of lack of buildings in spite of regular donations.

It was also discovered that almost all the available materials in use in most churches as pews, altar and other necessary decorations were donations from members of the public.

While the smaller missions fiddle with money the giant ones are reliably known to be spending very little out of the huge revenues in the name of Christ.

Educational Institutions

For instance the bigger missions claim responsibilities for the sponsorship of some educational institutions and hospitals on which they spend enormous sums, but inquiries revealed that majority of the primary and secondary schools and teacher-training colleges under them are grant-aided while the mission hospitals are also being aided financially and materially by the govenment.

Investigations further revealed that medical bills are heavier in mission hospitals compared with fees payable in State hospitals.

Inquiries further revealed that huge sums of money go to some bigger missions through raffle draws. "The Catholic Church in Nigeria is known to be making fantastic gains from raffles since various prizes to be won by members of the public are canvassed for and obtained as gifts from department stores and several commercial houses", a Catholic claimed.

Economic observers in Ibadan and Lagos observe that the practice is a major economic advantage. But the big question being asked in several quarters is where do the revenues go? The church or the pastor's purse ?

Another odd thing discovered was the practice whereby church building projects were intentionally delayed to streng then the revenue earning capacities of those concerned.

There were cases where church members were over taxed with various

church levies in the name of building funds. "yet the church may never see the light of day".

Various opinions during the investigation centred on whether or not the Federal Military Government should not consider the possibility of creating a Ministry of Religion to check the growing anomalies in Nigerian churches.

First contacted in Logos was Bishop Seith Kale of the Anglican Church who could not assist much.

Large as it is, the Lagos Diocese of the Anglican Mission has no drawn-up annual budget like the local councils of the government "but its commitments are adequately met as demanded", Bishop Kale said.

Comment

Rev. Sope Johnson, Provost of the Christ Cathedral Church of Lagos refused to comment. But it was gathered that annual estimates prepared for the Christ Cathedral Church were usually hand-written and kept top secret.

When Archbishop A. K. Aggey was contacted during the week he refused to be engaged in conversations on the issue. But Catholic Church sources in Lagos alleged that instructions on the expenditures of the church were given from Rome.

The sources further claimed that revenues with which to undertake projects in Nigeria are also sent from Rome adding that the Lagos headquarters does very little in financial matters.

Re. N O. Salako, President of the Methodist Church was not available for comments when contacted on Thursday but sources close to the church claimed that it had no annual budgets.

Other smaller churches contacted both in Lagos and Ibadad had no specific answers to the question put to them on their financial records.

(*Sunday Sketch, August, 9, 1970.*)

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